

purpose they were allowed to 'run wild' over the estate, hunting and running down wild game for their food—presumably wild deer, etc. that raided into the property. It was on hearing this that I was reminded of having heard, on several occasions during previous years, of a similar version about this 'pack of Alsations' in the vicinity of Kotagiri; and, though the spot in the jungle (open tree and bush) where I saw the trio would be fifteen miles or more in a straight line from Kil-Kotagiri; it now seems reasonable to assume that the two larger animals were indeed Alsatian dogs (males) following a wild dog bitch which was in season.

If such an assumption is correct, and that mating had occurred and a litter of puppies will result therefrom, then what may the behaviour of the offspring of such an union be towards human beings encountered in the jungle when the cross-bred animals run with a pack of wild dogs?

'GLENCAIRN',
HOBART ROAD,
OOTACAMUND,
December 14, 1952.

K. BOSWELL,
Capt., I.A.M.C. (Retd.)

5. REMARKABLE BEHAVIOUR OF A COW

A few days ago, in the midst of a busy Bombay locality (Magazine Street, Darukhana) I witnessed one of the usual dog fights for the possession of a bitch. The larger one, a strong black street dog, was getting the upper hand over his rival. At this point, the two fighters were joined by a cow, which appeared on the scene from nowhere and began to separate the fighting dogs. The cow made a mild charge, head down, pushing the dogs about with her nose and rolling them over and over. She finally succeeded in separating the fighters. No sooner was this done, the big fellow threatened to thrust himself upon the small dog again. It was only then that the cow made a determined charge against the big bully. There was no doubt that the cow meant business: she attacked the dog with her horns and threw him clean over, whereupon the bully quit, but not without being pursued and chased for another 100 yards or so by the infuriated cow, who took up a position in the middle of the road till the dog had disappeared around the corner. This incident was watched by a large crowd.

'BAITUL SURUR',
WARDEN ROAD,
BOMBAY,
March 3, 1953.

F. R. GOLDSCHMIDT, D.Sc.

6. RED PORCUPINES

With reference to Miscellaneous Note No. 9 in the *Journal*, Vol. 50 (4), earlier this month I came on two red-quilled porcupines on a road on these Hills (the Billigirirangans; Coimbatore District) while driving in the evening—the first coloured porcupines I have seen.

This was during the severe drought we experienced, before the onset of the SW. Monsoon.

HONNAMETTI ESTATE,
ATTIKAN, P.O.,
VIA MYSORE,
SOUTH INDIA,
October 11, 1952.

RANDOLPH C. MORRIS

7. HOW LONG DO THE SMALL BATS (MICROCHIROPTERA) LIVE?

In his 'Contributions to our Knowledge of the Duration of Life in Vertebrate Animals—V. Mammals' (*P.Z.S., London, 1931*), Major S. S. Flower writes of the suborder Microchiroptera (pp. 160-61) as follows:—

'Owing to the difficulties of keeping Insectivorous Bats in captivity, and to the very few cases so far recorded of marked, or banded, Bats being recaught, little is known as to their duration of life.

A Noctule Bat, *Nyctalus noctula*, from Hever, Kent, presented by Mr. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo to the London Z.G. 10-12-1914, died on 18-4-1915; this, 4 months 8 days, is an exceptionally long time for any insectivorous Bat to live in captivity.

A long-eared Bat, *Plecotus auritus*, lived in private ownership in Germany, 26-11-1925 to 28-1-1927, 1 year 2 months 2 days (H. Kummerlöwe, 1929).

Two female American Brown Bats, *Eptesicus fuscus fuscus*, captured in a loft near Covina, California, 20-7-1921, were taken to Pasadena, some twenty miles away, banded and released the same evening. On 16-6-1923 these two individuals were recaptured in the same loft where they had been caught nearly two years before; they were again taken to Pasadena and once more liberated (A. B. Howell and L. Little, 1924, p. 261).

British Bats "must reach a minimum of at least four years" (G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton, 1911, p. 45).

Roux's Horseshoe-Bat, *Rhinolophus rouxi*, in India apparently seldom lives over four years in a wild state, and is not known to reach an age of five years (Knud Anderson, 1917).'

In view of the above it is therefore useful to record that a specimen of the Fulvous Leafnosed Bat (*Hipposideros fulvus* Gray) ringed by Messrs. C. McCann, Mr. Humayun Abdulali and myself (Bombay Natural History Society's No. 4688) on Elephanta Island, Bombay Harbour, on 10th May 1942, was recovered by me on 13th March 1953, that is exactly 10 years, 10 months and 3 days later. This female along with 5 other individuals of the same species had been captured and ringed in the right-hand room (as one enters) of the main cave containing the magnificent Trimurthi, and it was also recovered in the identical place. It seemed adult at the time of ringing and was at least one year old then, so that it had clearly lived for at least 12 years. That it was as yet far from advanced senility is proved by the fact that it was gravid and contained a fairly developed foetus.